

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2012**

**Archie Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:00p.m. Executive Session, Vote to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining Grievance-Custodial**

**Those in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green; Mr. Jack Sommer, and Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters. Mr. Paul Martin and Mrs. Susan Records were absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Paula Dillon, Asst. Superintendent, and Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration were also present.**

## **7:01p.m. Regular Meeting**

**The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the library of the Archie Cole Middle School at 7:01p.m. by Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair.**

### **I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

### **II. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Regular for 12/20/11**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the regular minutes for 12/20/11 were approved 4-0 with Mr. Durant abstaining.**

### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio gave an update on the Ad Hoc Grade Configuration Committee. Sub groups have been set up and will reconvene again tomorrow. Two public forums will be set up. One forum will take place at Hanaford and one at Eldredge. Tentative dates are January 10th for Hanaford and January 24th for Eldredge. A survey is scheduled to be sent out via the district list serv on January 6th. The foreign language task force met prior to the winter break. This group has visited other school districts and has one more scheduled visit. The task force will reconvene on January 17th.**

### **V. School Committee Concerns**

**Dr. Gifford asked for a backup School Committee member for the foreign language task force. Mrs. Winters volunteered. Dr. Gifford discussed potential dates to present the recommendations from the Commission on Retaining High Quality Teachers. The tentative date is**

**February 7, 2012.**

### **VI. Action Items**

#### **a. Field Trip-EGHS, New York City May 2, 2012**

**On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the**

**Committee voted 5-0 to approve the field trip.**

**b. EGHS Program of Studies: 2012-2013**

**Mr. Podraza discussed his conversation with Mr. McPartlin regarding the scope and sequence surrounding the history curriculum. Government history used to be partially engrained in the freshman curriculum followed by government law. Curriculum council will address this topic. Mrs. Dillon discussed the depth of material covered in grade 9 and 11 history classes. Mr. Green stated he could not find descriptions in the Program of Studies that reflect civics and constitutional law. Mr. Green would like a formal report from the Curriculum Committee once their work has been completed. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the East Greenwich High School Program of Studies for 2012-2013.**

**c. Second Read/Adoption of Revised Policy**

**1. Policy #8120 Home Schooling**

**Mrs. Dillon revised the language under Parent Responsibility #5 and School Committee responsibility under #1f which asks for a detailed description of the instruction to be provided which outlines a parent's ability to do so effectively. This language is aligned with Rhode Island regulations. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to adopt Policy #8120-Home Schooling.**

**d. Fields' MOU**

**Mr. Durant made a motion to table the Fields' MOU and the Aramark Contract (item #g). Mr. Green seconded the motion and the**

**Committee voted 5-0 to table both items. There was confusion surrounding the cover letter that is to accompany the Fields' MOU. This item will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting.**

**e. Rankings of Finance Committee Recommendations**

**Dr. Gifford reviewed the School Committee's ranking of the Finance Committee's recommendations. Items #3 and #6 need additional evaluation and discussion. Dr. Gifford asked Dr. Mercurio and Mrs. Dillon to work on strategies and evaluation methods for recommendation #3 (cost/benefits of tablet computers) and to report back to the School Committee in March. Recommendation #5-Varnum inventory will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting. Recommendation #6-Program Review Committee will be discussed at a later date once committee work pertaining to grade configuration and language has been completed. Mr. Sommer would like a thank-you sent to the Finance Committee and would like the recommendation process to continue on an annual basis.**

**f. NEASC Report Recommendations**

**Dr. Mercurio spoke with Mrs. Ashworth (NEASC) regarding the recommendations. She was excited to hear about the high school library renovations. Dr. Gifford asked about the recommendations for the locker rooms. Dr. Mercurio will reach out to the Building Committee.**

**g. Aramark Contract**

**This item was tabled (see #d).**

**VII. Discussion Items**

**a. East Greenwich High School Library Renovations**

**SMMA has initiated a punch list and that work is ongoing. Furniture, fixtures, and equipment have been received and assembly is being coordinated. Mr. Green asked when the Committee can tour the library. Dr. Mercurio will check with Sean Sullivan and set up a date. Mr. Sommer questioned the status on the library hours. Dr. Mercurio noted that discussions are ongoing with the teachers' union and they have not reached closure. This topic will be discussed again at the next School Committee meeting. Library occupancy is scheduled for February 1st. Dr. Gifford questioned the timeframe of the infrastructure enhancements for the library. Dr. Mercurio said the infrastructure will be handled after the RFP process. SBS and the Technology Advisory Committee are currently working on this process.**

**b. Update on Cole lighting**

**SBS received a letter from Siemens which they shared with SMMA. SBS is waiting for a response from SMMA and the lighting manufacturer. The lights at Cole are supposed to be turned off after the last event of the evening. Dr. Mercurio asks that community members contact him if they see the lights on at unusual hours.**

**c. Budget Workshop Dates**

**There are four proposed dates for budget workshops: January 24th, January 26th, January 31st, and February 2nd. These meetings will begin at 7:00pm with the location to be determined. The budget adoption date was changed from March 20, 2012 to March 6, 2012 due to the deadline of March 15th. Dr. Gifford would like to present the report from the Committee on Retaining High Quality Teachers at the**

**February 7th School Committee meeting. Mrs. Leach will check the date with the other teachers on the committee.**

**d. Financial Impact Statement –Support Staff**

**Mrs. Crawford discussed the total savings which amount to (\$51,742.00) over the course of the contract. The paraprofessional contract will be signed within days and will be posted on the district website along with the Financial Impact Statement.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**